



RN Bridge to Paramedic Curricula
September 3, 2002

PREREQUISITES

1. The candidate must be a currently licensed in Virginia as a Registered Nurse.
2. The candidate must be currently participating as an active EMS field provider or actively working as an RN.
 - a. The term “active” as used above for both the field provider and RN is defined as a minimum average of eight (8) hours a week over the two previous years or a total of eight hundred thirty-two (832) hours within the previous two years (8 hours / week X 2 years = 832 hours).
3. The candidate must be currently certified as an EMT or posses higher EMS certification.

CURRICULA

Emphasis needs to be placed on the Airway Management Module with time to be spent with cricoidthyroidotomies and pleural decompression. Critical Decision Making must also be emphasized.

The RN Bridge to Paramedic Program will include:

1. Didactic (all knowledge objectives)
2. Psychomotor Skills Lab (critical decision making)
3. Competencies
4. Field Internship

The committee outlined the RN to Paramedic curricula and determined that each program would need to spend time in the following modules/topics marked with an *: The time spent on each topic will vary from program to program however the hours totals are the minimum for the module.

RN Bridge to Paramedic		
Module	Topics	Minimum Contact Hours
Preparatory		4
*	EMS Systems/Roles and Responsibilities	
	The Well Being of the Paramedic	
	Illness and Injury Prevention	
*	Medical Legal Issues	
	Ethics	
	General Principles of Pathophysiology	
*	Pharmacology	
*	Venous Access and Medication Administration	
	Therapeutic Communications	
	Life Span Development	
Airway Management and Ventilation		8
*	Airway Management and Ventilation	
Patient Assessment		12
	History Taking	
	Techniques of Physical Examination	
*	Patient Assessment	
*	Clinical Decision Making	
*	Communications	
	Documentation	
Trauma		20
*	Trauma Systems/Mechanism of Injury	
*	Hemorrhage and Shock	
*	Soft Tissue Trauma	
*	Burns	
*	Head and Facial Trauma	
*	Spinal Trauma	
*	Thoracic Trauma	
*	Abdominal Trauma	
*	Musculoskeletal Trauma	
Medical		40
	Pulmonary	
*	Cardiology	
	Neurology	
	Endocrinology	
*	Allergies and Anaphylaxis	

	Gastroenterology	
	Renal/Urology	
*	Toxicology	
	Hematology	
*	Environmental Conditions	
	Infectious and Communicable Diseases	
	Behavioral and Psychiatric Disorders	
	Gynecology	
	Obstetrics	
Special Considerations		16
*	Neonatology	
*	Pediatrics	
	Geriatrics	
	Abuse and Assault	
	Patients with Special Challenges	
	Acute Interventions for the Chronic Care Patient	
Operations		20
*	Ambulance Operations	
*	Medical Incident Command	
*	Rescue Awareness and Operations	
*	Hazardous Materials Incidents	
*	Crime Scene Awareness	
Total		120

CLINICAL HOURS (MINIMUM)

The following are the minimum hours for each of the required areas: OR/Recovery 16 hours, CCU 16 hours, L&D 16 hours, Pediatrics 16, Emergency Department 48 hours and Field Team Leader 24 hours.

COMPETENCIES

Candidates may utilize competencies while in their work setting while they are enrolled in the program as long as the competencies are documented in patient notes or through the use of the program competency log and signed off on by the nurse manager.

It was determined that the clinical requirements (competencies) could not be omitted but credit could be given for properly documented (logged) competencies that the candidate performs while in the work environment. Other competencies that are presented with appropriate documentation will be allowed by the program for past experience as outlined below

(Recommendations as Approved by Medical Direction Committee and Human Resources and Training Committee on October 18, 2001).

“The committee recommends that each program have a written policy defining how it will determine whether a student starting a program can apply past experience or proven competency for their current program. In cases where the previous experience or competency is recognized, credit can only be awarded up to the competency number required for the level of certification held. Any additional competency numbers described for the higher level of certification being sought must be completed during the higher certification’s training course. In all cases where a program awards credit for past experience or competency, such recognition requires that all competency number allowances have documentation supporting each competency recognition. (Example: 1) If three field intubations are accepted, then documentation must be submitted reflecting each skill performance. 2) If using a previous training program, then documentation from that program reflecting each time the skill competency was performed is required.) Further, all recognized competencies must have occurred within one (1) year of the programs begin date. However, each skill must be documented as demonstrating competency during the current program. (If a program accepts previous competency documentation from a program and no more competency contacts are required based upon the curriculum, the current program must verify competency during its course of instruction. This process is described in a policy created by each program.)”

It should be emphasized that when the candidate is not in their normal work setting (department) being precepted by their nurse manager then they are to follow the policies and procedures established for approved preceptors.

EVALUATION

The RN to Paramedic Program must cover and evaluate all of the objectives in the Paramedic Curricula to properly prepare the candidate as a paramedic. All of the paramedic objectives must be met and documented for each of the candidates. Evaluation of the candidate must be performed throughout the program on the knowledge objectives and psychomotor skills as outlined in the objectives. The evaluation can be any combination of written and labs (psychomotor skills) to determine a thorough understanding of the objectives after each didactic section during the program. This module testing can occur in variety of methods.

PROGRAM MARKETING

The new curricula dictate that successful completion of the program will be determined by producing a competent field provider not by the arbitrary use of hours as a course determinant. Didactic material, competencies and field team leader activities will run this program to approximately three hundred (300) hours. There are several variables that may play a significant role in this number as documented previous experiences, aggressiveness of the candidate to complete their competencies and field leader activities will dictate the time frame for this program.